

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

THE SUPERINTENDENT

COPY FROM FILE 143.

MONTHLY REPORT

for

February,

1921.



MONTHLY REPORT

M.A.R.C.H.,

1921.

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Chief Rangers Report and other data from Heads of Departments
used in making up this report attached hereto.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
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E OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 10, 1921.

Dear Sir:

The following is report on conditions in Yellowstone National Park, and on the operation of the park, for the month of February, 1921:

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

The monthly mean temperature was 24.4, which was 4.8° above normal. A higher mean has been recorded but six times in the past 35 years. Two unusually warm periods occurred, namely, from the 9th-14th and 23d-28th. There were 10 days with temperature above 40°, the greatest number of record with the exception of 1907 and 1916. The maxima of 50° on the 24th and 51° on the 27th are the HIGHEST OF RECORD for February.

Precipitation: Total, 0.62 inch, is 1.22 inches below normal. The first 15 days were generally cloudy and unsettled with frequent light snow; the remainder of the month was comparatively free from storms and much bright, pleasant weather prevailed.

Snowfall: Total, 6.3 inches, is less than one-half the normal. The greatest fall was 2.2 inches on the 15th. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 12.0 inches on the 5th to the 8th. The snow cover decreased steadily under the influence of mild temperature, and at the end of the month but 5.4 inches remained, which with four exceptions is the least of record for the date.

Wind: Total movement was somewhat above normal, but the maximum velocity of 32 miles from the southwest on the 12th and 26th was not unusual.

Sunshine: Percentage of possible, 49. Normal 53.

The above statistics were furnished by the Observer of the Local United States Weather Bureau, from observations taken at Park Headquarters. His Monthly

Meteorological Report for February is enclosed. A very large percentage of the total area of the park is located at a much higher altitude than Mammoth, which is about 6,200 feet, and, therefore, the snow is much deeper and the weather colder over the greater part of the park than is shown by these figures.

The high mean temperature and low precipitation, including snowfall, served to reduce the quantities of snow throughout the park and made an unusual contrast between snow conditions at the beginning and at the end of the month. Many southern slopes were left bare, uncovering additional feed for the wild animals, and their tendency throughout the month was to go higher. An interesting comparison of snow depths in the park, indicating a probable early spring and easy opening of roads in the park, follows:

Station	DEPTH OF SNOW, in inches.			
	1920		1921	
	Jan. 31-Feb. 29		Jan. 31 - Feb. 28	
Mammoth Hot Springs,	8.6	15.6	10½	5.4
Norris,	20		36	12
Riverside,	30	35	36	24
Upper Basin,				4
Gallatin,	27.3	36.1	24	18
Bechler,			40	70
Snake River,	49	48	52	58
Thumb,			40	50
Lake,	34.5		41	30
Upper Yellowstone,	37		41	30
East Entrance,	37		34	26
Canyon,	50		50	30
Tower Falls,	20		24	14
Buffalo Ranch,	14.5		22	10
Soda Butte,		29	30	12

In general these figures show that at the end of January, 1920, and the end of January, 1921, the snow on the ground in the park was about the same; that during February, 1920, its depth increased by several inches; while during February, 1921, the depth of snow decreased about a foot, except in the southwestern part of the park, where it increased several inches. With the wild animals seeking higher grazing, and the appearance recently of quite a number of summer birds, including bluebirds, blackbirds, and robins, the indications seem very good for an early spring, and the opening of the roads without much expense or difficulty.

Travel.

The road between Headquarters and Gardiner, 5 miles, was the only one in the park open to motor traffic during the month. The Cooke City mail carrier continued to travel the road to Cooke via Tower Falls and Soda Butte with light horse teams and sleighs, making the round trip once a week.

Enclosed is the Chief Ranger's Travel Report for February, 1921, and for February, 1920, for comparison.

Labor and Supply Market.

Being on a winter basis, no labor beyond the regular force was required. The indications are, however, at the present time that we shall be able to get plenty of laborers and mechanics at a considerably less wage than was paid last year.

No supplies were purchased during the month except coal from local mines, on which the price has not changed much since last year. Prospects are good for securing subsistence and other supplies before they will be needed for the working season at a much lower rate and with quicker deliveries than last year.

II. PERSONNEL.

Employees.

On February 1st there were 63 employees on duty under this office, which had been decreased on February 26th to 61.

The following list shows the number of employees of various classes serving under appointment during the month, with a general statement of the kind of work performed:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Kind of work performed.</u>
2	Asst. Engineers	Office engineering, filing and cataloguing records.
4	Clerks	1 Disbursing Agent and Purchasing Clerk; 1 clerk on cost account work and property; 1 stenographer-typist on orders, proposals, and vouchers; 1 stenographer-typist on stenographic work, files, and cutting and pasting clippings.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class.</u>	<u>Kind of work performed.</u>
2	Electricians	Read meters; did necessary line work, and operated power plant regular shifts, including Sundays.
1	Foreman	In charge of stables at headquarters, and putting up ice. <i>and repairs</i>
1	Telegraph Operator	Sent and received all Government Western Union messages; operated one shift on telephone switchboard. <i>15 repairs, 15 miles, March</i>
1	Telephone Switchboard Operator	Operated telephone switchboard, daily shifts, including Sundays.
1	Master Mechanic	In charge of shops, and of repairs to heavy road machinery.
1	Blacksmith	General blacksmith work, including shoeing horses in shop; overhauling and repairing tools and equipment.
1	Painter	Renovated quarters at headquarters, also painted signs and equipment.
1	Lineman	In charge of telephone and telegraph system. Did emergency work and installed instruments.
7	Laborers	Teaming, freighting, work in warehouse, putting up ice, and miscellaneous work at headquarters.
1	Handyman	Worked in storehouse issuing and receiving supplies, and sorting property.
1	Buffalo Keeper	In charge of tame buffalo herd.
1	Asst. Buffalo Keeper	Assisting buffalo keeper.
1	Park Naturalist	Scientific research work.
1	Plumber	In charge of general plumbing and repairs to same at headquarters.
2	Automobile Mechanics	Repairing motor trucks and touring cars.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Kind of work performed.</u>
1	Watchman	Made hourly patrols during night at Headquarters; took care of office, and kept furnace going during the night.
1	Carpenter	Repaired buildings at Headquarters, and overhauled equipment in shop.
1	Chief Ranger	In charge of Ranger force.
1	Asst. Chief Ranger	In charge of northern district.
① 6	First-class Pk. Rangers	In charge of ranger stations and making patrols.
16	Park Rangers	In charge of ranger stations, doing patrol work, etc. 1 in charge of southern district as Acting Assistant Chief.
3	Temporary Park Rangers	Doing regular patrol work. 1 assisting in Chief Ranger's Office.
1	Fireman	In charge of furnaces at headquarters.

In addition to the regular employees listed above under appointment, the following were employed temporarily by the day:

March *March 31*
On February 1st - On February 28th

Laborers,	3	1
Skilled Laborers, 247	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	3	1

Leaves of Absence.

During February, annual leaves of absence were granted as follows:

Court E. Dowing,	Park Ranger,	20 days - Feb. 1-24
Burton C. LaCombe,	Buffalo Keeper,	$\frac{1}{2}$ day - Feb. 1-noon
Calvin O. Davis,	Park Ranger,	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - Feb. 1 (noon)-26
Burton C. LaCombe,	Buffalo Keeper,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - Feb. 14-19 (noon)
Wendell E. Bishop,	Park Ranger,	$\frac{1}{2}$ " - Feb. 1-1 (noon)
Alfred C.D. Heman,	Laborer,	2 " - Feb. 1-2
F.J. Townsend,	Park Ranger,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - Feb. 1-5 (noon)
Geo. T. Bustman,	Clerk,	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - Feb. 7-15 (noon)
Hans Larsen,	Park Ranger,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - Feb. 14-18 (noon)

Harry Trischman,	Asst. Chief Fk. Ranger,	4½ days	- Feb. 14-18 (noon)
Lee Webb,	Carpenter,	6 "	- Feb. 14-19
James Russell,	Park Ranger,	11½ "	- Feb. 14-28
Carrie O. Haumesser,	Stenographer-Typist,	2 "	- Feb. 26-28
Roy Gray,	Laborer,	2½ "	- Feb. 15-17 (noon)
Daniel W. Tripp,	"	3 "	- Feb. 16-18
Helen E. McNutt,	Stenographer-Typist,	1½ "	- Feb. 2 (noon)-3-3.L.
Helen E. McNutt,	"	1 "	- Feb. 21
W.N. Purdue,	Park Ranger,	8 "	- Feb. 16-28
A.C. Neumann,	Painter,	4½ "	- Feb. 14-18 (noon)
George T. Dustman,	Clerk,	½ "	- Feb. 21 (noon)
George McFarland,	Laborer,	5 "	- Feb. 21-26
Fred L. Bonnell,	"	1½ "	- Feb. 5 - 7 (noon)
Charlie R. Stinnett,	Blacksmith,	1½ "	- Feb. 8 - 9 (noon)
Nellie Roach,	Telephone Operator,	2 1½ " 4	- Feb. 26 (noon)-27 28
George T. Dustman,	Clerk,	1 "	- Feb. 26
F.J. Townsend,	Park Ranger,	23½ "	- Feb. 5 (noon) - 28*

*Sick leave to be applied for.

Corrected by letter Apr 5/21

Appointments.

There were no appointments becoming effective during the month.

(Outline plan for term ran from)

Separations.

Jan. 15: Jack H. Harvey, Motorcycle Mechanic, \$120 per month.

Leave without pay: Master of Transportation John Delmar was granted a leave of absence without pay, effective January 14, 1921, as per your letter dated February 8, 1921. It is likely that he will be recalled to the Service before the expiration of this term.

III. WORK COMPLETED:

(a) Construction of Physical Improvements.

There was no construction work in progress during the month of February.

(b) Maintenance and Repair of Physical Improvements.

There is nothing to report under this heading.

(c) Miscellaneous Improvement Work.

Most of the work done during the month by the regular winter force is reported under the heading "Work in Progress".

The two engineers devoted practically all of their time throughout the month to work in the office, and completed work as follows:

The final plans, quantities computed, and complete location of Great Fountain Geyser Basin Road, including the design in detail of:

- 1 - 5' x 1'3" x 30'
- 1 - 12' x 1'3" x 30'
- 1 - 4' x 1'3" x 30'

concrete culverts with low clearance to fit the field conditions.

1 - 30' steel I-beam bridge, with the beams incased in concrete, was designed in detail for Mormon Creek, East Forest Reserve.

1 - 20' concrete T-beam bridge for Goff Creek on the East Forest Reserve was partially detailed.

Plans for a buffalo shipping crate were made.

The Lewis River road improvement - from the 14 mile post to the 16 mile post south of the Thumb - was worked up in detail.

A tracing of the transmission of the 75 H.P. Caterpillar for shop use was made.

The estimate and plans for the improvement and repairs to the sprinkling system throughout the park were partially completed.

The task of putting up the year's supply of ice for use at Headquarters, which was begun on January 17th, was completed February 10th. We have 180 tons of excellent ice stored for the season's use, of which 145 tons were put up this year, and the balance was left over from last year's stock. The same crew also put up 216 tons of ice for the Hotel Company; 16 tons for George Whittaker, and 13 tons for the Park Curio Shop, the crew working together on a cooperative basis and dividing the expenses in proportion to actual cost. The cost per ton was about \$2.63 for cutting, hauling nearly a mile with teams and sleighs, and packing in the ice house.

(d) Service to the Public.

The Chief Ranger's Travel Report for February, with copy of same report for February, 1920, for comparison, are appended, as previously mentioned in this report. No attention was paid to this feature for the reason that there was no travel of any consequence to the park.

Information Service:

95 National Park publications were sent out free of charge. 73 short letters were sent out in reply to simple inquiries; 16 more letters requiring longer, more technical replies were answered after spending the necessary time in searching out the information desired. In addition, 91 letters applying for positions were answered, mostly by referring the applicants to the Hotel Company, the Camps Company, or the Transportation Company, as seemed most suitable.

IV. WORK IN PROGRESS:

(a) Construction of Physical Improvements.

There was no construction work in progress during the month.

(b) Maintenance and Repair of Physical Improvements.

The little work that was accomplished which comes under this heading was done by the regular shop force and is covered in a following paragraph under "Miscellaneous Work".

(c) Miscellaneous Work.

The office force was on duty daily from 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., except on Sundays and holidays, and performed the usual routine work on vouchers, cost reports, correspondence, filing, etc., and considerable progress was made on pasting up clippings in scrap books, and making lists of property in connection with taking a complete inventory.

Park Naturalist Skinner continued his field work on birds and animals, and especially on the antelope herd, which consumed a large part of his time. Special studies on museum construction and forestry were carried along. Other studies pursued by him, as indicated in his notes on season changes, information service, and natural phenomena, are embodied in this report.

The Headquarters corral and small labor force worked at putting up ice until about February 10th; did miscellaneous hauling of fuel, ashes, garbage, etc., hauled 2 carloads of coal from the railroad station to Headquarters, and did miscellaneous work assisting the mechanics and other necessary work around Headquarters in connection with care of the plant and property.

The Ranger force kept up the special patrols on Hellroaring Mountain, keeping the elk of that region back towards Glough Creek, where hay has been fed since about the end of last November. The regular patrols were also made in all districts by the rangers on station, and special patrols were made by Acting Assistant Chief Ranger Douglas, in company with Rangers Seoyen and Winn, into the wilds of the Eastern District to make a special investigation of the condition of the wild buffalo. The weather conditions for traveling on snowshoes and on skis were good, though most of the traveling had to be done in early morning or late evening, when the snow was hard, as is usual at this season of the year.

The plumber had charge of the upkeep and repairs of our extensive water and sewer system, and heating plants in the various buildings at Headquarters, making all necessary repairs to same as required. He also installed a hot water heating system in the paint shop during the month, using old material that was taken from vacant buildings. The paint shop is used largely for painting and varnishing vehicles, and when heated with stoves it is a difficult matter to get a good job of varnishing on account of the dust incident to keeping up fires in stoves to heat the building and carrying out the ashes. This trouble is obviated by the hot water system of heating, which will also be more economical in the use of fuel.

The painter and his assistant assisted the plumber in installing the heating system in the paint shop; made necessary changes in the arrangement of the shop to give room for the radiators, and painted vehicles and other equipment the balance of the time.

The shop force made excellent progress in the work of giving motor vehicles and equipment a most thorough overhauling so it will be in first-class condition for use next season. The carpenter made 15 bulletin boards for use next summer in public camps, repaired equipment, and did small repair work on buildings where occasion arose. The mechanics, in addition to making good progress on the general overhauling of trucks and motor cars, took down the 75 H.P. Caterpillar Tractor and made good progress in cleaning it up and repairing and installing new parts needed to put it in good condition for the next summer's work. The blacksmith repaired road graders and heavy equipment, and made general repairs to tools from the storehouse, sharpening picks, etc.

The foreman in charge of stables at Headquarters, Harry McFarland, had charge of the crew putting up ice up to February 10th and since that date has made excellent progress

in repairing harness and tents in the shop, in addition to looking after the Headquarters corral.

The power plant and telephone line operations were combined, and together the linemen and electricians did the usual work connected with the operation of the hydro-electric plant, and kept the lines and instruments in repair, read meters, and other work incidental to the successful operation of the lighting and signal system. The power plant was run about 20 hours per day, except Sundays and holidays, when it was run but about 12 hours. The total current generated during the month of February amounted to 9,650 kilowatt hours, of which 467 K.W. hours were sold to park utilities; 806 K.W. hours were used for illuminating the streets at night, and the balance was consumed in Government buildings for lighting and power purposes, and lost in transmitting over the lines. The peak load for the month was 56 kilowatts.

An important piece of repair work was done at the power plant during the month by the automobile mechanics, assisted by the electricians. The thrust bearings on Machine No. 3 had been giving more or less trouble for several years by running hot. This machine was taken down and the bearings taken to the shops, where they were scraped and the sleeve smoothed up. The machine was put back in service on the 7th, and after a few days' running to get it well "broken in", it has run quite smoothly.

As in the previous month, all of these activities were more or less interfered with on account of the taking of leaves in numerous cases by park employees.

Improvements by Park Utilities.

The Yellowstone Park Camps Company employed three men at Mammoth during the month of February - 1 carpenter and two mechanics, overhauling equipment in the shop.

The Hotel Company employed winter keepers for the hotels at Mammoth, Norris Basin, Upper Geyser Basin, Lake, and Canyon.

The Transportation Company had five men at work at Mammoth, one in charge, who also ran the mail stage between Mammoth and Gardiner, and four painters refinishing the company's motor vehicles.

Mr. George Whittaker ran his general store at Mammoth in connection with the post office.

V. WORK BEGUN:

The only work commenced during February is as noted under previous headings.

VI. PLANS OR PROPOSED WORK:

To date nothing is known of any plans of the public utilities operating in the park for anything further in the line of improvements or maintenance than are now in progress. Rumors have been heard that the Hotel Company and the Transportation Company intend to send in a considerable force about the middle of March to begin more extensive plans for putting their plants in shape for the next tourist season.

Our work will consist of a continuation of the routine office work, giving special attention to the work of bringing the property return up to date; continuing the other important work mentioned under heading IV incidental to the upkeep and operation of the necessary Headquarters activities, repair, and general overhauling of tools and equipment, and active patrols by the ranger force for the purpose of protecting the wild animals from poachers and extermination of predatory animals.

Unofficial notice has also been received of the passage of the Sundry Civil Bill carrying next year's appropriation for the park and including \$25,000 to be immediately available, and plans are to be made to allot and make ready for the expenditure of this money to the best possible advantage in opening roads and other necessary pre-season work.

During March it is also contemplated selecting a list of names from among the various applicants to fill the positions as temporary rangers during the tourist season, and make requests for their appointments. Also to look up and make arrangements for employment of men to fill other positions for the summer, and to make other arrangements for the coming busy season as far ahead as may be practicable, such as securing teams, supplies, etc.

VII. POLICIES.

No new policies were adopted during the month.

VIII. COST OF OPERATION:

The report showing cost of work during February was transmitted by separate letter on March 8th.

IX. OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST:

Wild Animals.

The weather and snow conditions remained favorable to all wild animals, as they had been throughout the winter. Reports indicated that the elk and deer continued to have a tendency to range high and that they were getting ample forage. The large herds seemed to be split up more than they were in January, and reports also indicated that the devastation among them by coyotes and wolves was on the increase.

Buffalo, tame herd: It was necessary to continue to feed hay to the tame buffalo at the ranch during the month of February, but the prospects are that the amount being fed can be cut down materially at an early date as the warm weather has uncovered much good grazing ground in the Lamar River valley. The ration during February for the herd was about 4,500 lbs. per day. The herd is in excellent condition and a big calf crop is expected. About 30 of the old bulls of the herd have wintered in the mountains away from the others. Recently these have begun to drift back to the ranch and join the balance of the herd. No calves appeared during the month. One of the new calves recently reported was killed by being gored by a bull near the ranch, thus leaving but 4 calves to date. The hide was taken off and saved as a specimen.

Buffalo, wild herd. Acting Assistant Chief Ranger Joseph Douglas and Ranger Scoyen made a careful patrol through Pelican Valley to locate as many as possible of the wild buffalo. This trip was made on skis and covered a period of eight days. But 27 of the buffalo were found. Following this trip, by appointment, Douglas met Ranger Winn of the Soda Butte District at Cold Creek Cabin on the Upper Lamar, and on a patrol down Lamar River they found 26 more of the wild buffalo. Conditions were not good, however, as the atmosphere was foggy, and Douglas is of the opinion that there are many more of the wild herd in the Upper Lamar and Cache Creek country. Those seen were in excellent condition and getting an ample supply of forage.

Two buffalo hides and one skull, saved from animals that died a year or two ago, were shipped to Brooklyn, N.Y., for Mr. Edmund Seymour, President of the American Bison Society.

Bears: No bears were seen, but rumors were heard that a few tracks had been found, indicating that they were coming out of their winter dens earlier than usual.

Antelope: Special attention was given to the small herd of antelope which is wintering near Gardiner. They are apparently quite well contented and have not tried to leave the park this winter as they often do when the winters are severe, but are feeding well back from the park line fence. Ranger McLaughlin, who has devoted much time to patrolling among the antelope, reports finding the carcasses of but three during the entire winter, of which two were killed by coyotes and the third uncertain as to manner of death.

Deer: Deer are plentiful, but well scattered throughout the northern section of the park. Further data relating to deer will be found in this report under the heading of "Seasonal Changes".

Elk: The large herds of elk wintering on Hellroaring, Slough Creek, and Lamar River, split up into smaller bands and are working up to higher levels than common at this time of the year. Reports of elk were received from Slough Creek, Hellroaring, Specimen Ridge, Norris, Cache Creek, Miller Creek, Mammoth, Blacktail, Electric Peak, and a few from the Lake. But very few dead elk were found during the month. One cow was found dead near the Mammoth power plant, apparently having died from natural causes. Indications are that deaths from predatory animals were very small so far as the elk are concerned. The bulls were shedding their horns during February, and the wood ticks are beginning to be noticeable. A 5-year old bull elk was captured near Mammoth Hot Springs and on February 8th was shipped to the City of Sheridan, Wyoming, under your authority dated December 21, 1920. Word was received that this animal reached his destination in excellent condition. When shipped his horns had not been shed, so it was necessary to saw them off to get him in a reasonably sized crate. This is a comparatively simple operation and was accomplished without any special difficulty. Two or three other elk are wanted for shipment, but the weather has recently been so mild that it is not easy to capture them and it is doubtful if they will be shipped this winter. About 2,000 head of elk were fed on Slough Creek during February. The hay supply there is getting low and will not last until the end of March, but it is now apparent that any necessity for feeding will have gone before that time.

Mountain Sheep: The sheep were not much in evidence during February. Doubtless they were feeding high up in the mountains on account of the mild weather and were not observed.

Moose: No reports were received of moose having been seen. This is due to the fact that the rangers who usually patrol the moose country devoted most of the month to looking up the wild buffalo.

Carnivora: As usual, the coyotes and wolves are becoming more in evidence towards spring, and as the elk and deer get thinner and the beasts hungrier, there is more and more killing. No accurate reports were received of the number of dead animals found that had been killed by coyotes and wolves, but to date the killing has not been extensive. Efforts are being made to exterminate as many as possible of these pests. Ranger Henry Anderson devoted most of his time during February to this work and succeeded in killing 86 coyotes, and other rangers on duty in the elk country have killed quite a number. One fox also fell a victim to the poison placed in a carcass by Anderson for poisoning coyotes and wolves. Anderson will continue his effective work, and further efforts will be made to reduce the number of predatory animals that are preying upon the elk and deer.

Grazing: On account of the thawing weather prevalent throughout February, the snow left many acres of excellent grass uncovered, and there was no shortage of feed for the wild animals during the month, in any section of the park frequented by them.

Birds.

Notes on birds will be found under the heading "Seasonal Changes".

Fishes.

Fishing was fairly good in the Gardiner River below the mouth of Boiling River, and quite a number of residents of the Park and of Gardiner enjoyed it.

Seasonal Changes.

The following notes on Seasonal Changes in the park were furnished by Mr. M.P. Skinner, the Park Naturalist:

Botanical: Grass began to grow in a few sunny, warm spots on the 11th. Fresh clover leaves in the lawns at Mammoth on the 27th.

Birds: Pallid horned larks (the earliest migratory bird) returned on the 14th; red-polls reappeared on the 11th. Along the Gardiner River, the mallard decreased to

25, American golden-eye to 1, and Barrow golden-eye to 12; the Wilson snipe, kingfisher, 3 song sparrows, 75 dippers, and 6 Townsend solitaires remained as in January. In the neighborhood of Mammoth: magpies decreased to 6; nutcrackers increased to 8; the black-headed jays, green-winged teal, mallard, and leucostictes remained as in January; in addition a Rocky Mountain hairy woodpecker and several mountain chickadees were seen at different times. Nutcrackers began nesting on the 25th. A song sparrow was heard singing on the 28th.

Animals: Mule deer began casting their horns on the 3rd and finished on the 25th. Mule deer began moving towards the summer ranges on the 19th, movement still going on at the end of the month.

White tail deer finished casting horns on the 10th.

Shortly after the 1st, the elk within four miles of Mammoth increased to nine hundred head, and then dropped to four hundred head at the end of the month. The elk wintering on Bunsen Peak joined the Terrace Mountain herd on the 16th. Elk began moving towards the summer ranges on the 19th, movement still going on at the end of the month. Bulls began casting their horns at the end of the month.

Mountain sheep remained on the bench east of the Gardiner Canyon until the 27th, but moved up high on Mt. Everts on the 28th. They began shedding wool on the 25th.

Since the 1st, the antelope have been steadily moving higher on their ranges as the retreating snow line uncovered more and more forage, until they were at the 7,000 foot level on Mt. Everts on the 28th. The large winter bands began breaking into smaller groups on the 3rd. At the end of the month 80% of the bucks' horns were full grown and the remainder lacked but an inch or two.

Bear tracks of animals leaving hibernation reported by Ranger Henry Anderson on the 27th.

Beaver cutting cottonwood and alder along the Gardiner River.

The first ground squirrel out of hibernation seen on the 24th, and the first woodchuck on the 27th.

Insects: The first common flies at Mammoth seen on the 1st; flies and insects on the Mammoth formation on the 5th; a black and brown caterpillar on the 14th; and flying insects of many kinds noted all along between Mammoth and Gardiner on the 22nd.

Based on the above data, the season is opening up twelve days earlier than the average year.

Arrests and Violations of Law.

No arrests were made, and no violation of law was reported during the month of February. There are but few trappers at work in the vicinity of the park lines, and the rangers keep in close touch with those who are at work. The uncertainty of the fur market leaves but little incentive to trapping.

So far as we have been able to ascertain, there has been but little if any violation of law by killing in game preserves, or out of season. The Forest Rangers protecting the district along the north line of the park report no depredations. Scarcely any elk and not many deer have left the park into the Slough Creek, Hellroaring, and Crevice Mountain country. It is reported that about 500 are working in and out of the park across the line below Gardiner, and that they are not being molested by poachers.

Both the legislature of Montana and of Wyoming have recently been in session, and new game laws have been enacted which will be most advantageous to the cause of game protection as compared with the laws which have been in force in recent years. Copies of the revised laws have not yet been received.

Forest Fires.

There is nothing to report under this heading.

Accidents and Casualties.

No accidents of any consequence were reported.

Sickness.

Ranger Court Dewing was on sick leave until the 24th, under treatment for severe stomach trouble. He was sufficiently recovered to resume his duties.

Ranger F.J. Townsend was ill during the entire month, under treatment by doctors at Shico Hot Springs, Helena, Montana, and by the park physician. It is a little doubtful if he will be physically capable of resuming his duties as a park ranger.

While there were no serious cases of illness among the families in the park, there were several cases of tonsillitis, a disease which is often prevalent here at this time of the year.

Births.

The wife of Clerk Dustman gave birth to a fine 7½ lb. boy, George William, at a maternity hospital in Livingston, Montana, on February 13th. The mother and baby returned to the park on February 27th.

Medical Service.

Doctor W.E. Crawbuck was here throughout the month, except when he made short trips to nearby towns on business, and took care of the employees and families who required his services, under special arrangement with park residents. He reports that he made a total of 70 professional calls in the park during February.

Natural Phenomena.

The following notes on the natural phenomena of the park were furnished by Park Naturalist Skinner:

At Mammoth Hot Springs: Blue Spring (the spring that furnishes water to Jupiter Terrace) continues the same as last month. The spring to the south is still increasing in activity and the algal growth continues. Marble Terrace is not quite so active. Angel Terrace is now active in three different places, the coloring is very pretty, and the whole terrace compares very favorably with what it was last year. The White Elephant remains the same as two months ago. Activity at Orange Spring is increasing slightly. Bath Lake and the Devil's Kitchen are normal. Narrow Gauge Terrace is slowly becoming more active, the color better and more delicate, so that this terrace will soon be worth going to see once more after the lapse of many years. Minerva Terrace seems absolutely dead. Mound Terrace continues normal. The Palette Spring continues to dry up. Cleopatra Terrace continues the same as last month. Hymen Terrace is not so active and parts of it are drying up, but the change is very slight as yet.

Special Visitors.

Mr. T.E. Keefe, Superintendent of Hotels for the Yellowstone Park Hotel Company, visited Mammoth Hot Springs on business February 11th and 12th.

Motion Pictures.

No motion picture operators came to the park during February.

Miscellaneous.

Moving picture shows were held in the Post Exchange auditorium the evenings of February 12th and 26th. ¹⁹ ₅

Church Services were held in the chapel both morning and evening on February 6th, by Rev. J.H. Groth, pastor of the English Lutheran Church, of Livingston, Montana. Communion services were held on the morning of February 1st by Rev. Clarence A. Kopp, Episcopal minister from Livingston, Montana, and an evening service was also given by Mr. Kopp on February 26th.

One of the Government pack horses died on February 10th, and authority was later secured from your office to drop it from the property return, on the certificate of the ranger who found it.

A lost horse which was taken up at Lake Station was advertised by posting notices in adjoining towns on February 21st.

X. RECEIPTS AND REMITTANCES:

A report of monies due, collected, and transmitted, made in duplicate on the regular blank forms 10-59 and 10-60, is enclosed. This report is accompanied by postal money order dated February 9, 1921, No. 46112, in amount \$1.00, drawn to your order on the Postmaster at Washington, D.C., by the Postmaster at Yellowstone Park, Wyoming, representing the total amount transmitted herewith, as shown by the report. Acknowledgment of the receipt of the enclosed money order is requested.

Cordially yours,

Chester A. Lindsley,
Acting Superintendent.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.
Enclosures.

Allen's Report for month of February, 1921

filling Gas Tank February 1 to 12 th

cars, 14, 15, 16, 17, 1/2 day Feb. 18

filling Higgins from noon Feb. 18 to Feb. 28 incl.

A. C. Neumann.

Report of Power Plant during
Feb 1921

Total Generated		9850
ld to Cons.	467	
ect Lighting	<u>802</u>	<u>1273</u>
orment buildings		
ines		8577
ak Load,		36

The thrust bearing on
machine #3 has been giving
trouble for several years.
This was taken down
during the month and the
sleeve and bearing taken
to the shop. The sleeve
smoothed up and the
bearing scraped. The machine
was put back in service on
the 7th. This has been running
better since overhauled.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 1, 1921.

REPORT ON NATURAL PHENOMENA.

To: Chester A. Lindsley, Acting Superintendent.

From: M.P. Skinner, Park Naturalist.

At Mammoth Hot Springs: Blue Spring (the spring that furnishes water to Jupiter Terrace) continues the same as last month. The spring to the south is still increasing in activity and the algous growth continues. Marble Terrace is not quite so active. Angel Terrace is now active in three different places, the coloring is very pretty, and the whole terrace compares very favorably with what it was last year. The White Elephant remains the same as two months ago. Activity at Orange Spring is increasing slightly. Bath Lake and the Devil's Kitchen are normal. Narrow Guage Terrace is slowly becoming more active, the color better and more delicate so that this terrace will soon be worth going to see once more, after the lapse of many years. Minerva Terrace seems absolutely dead. Mound Terrace continues normal. The Palette Spring continues to dry up. Cleopatra Terrace continues the same as last month. Hymen Terrace is not so active and parts of it are drying up, but the change is very slight as yet.

MAR 3

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 1, 1921.

REPORT ON INFORMATION SERVICE.

To: Chester A Lindsley, Acting Superintendent.

From: M.P. Skinner, Park Naturalist.

93 National Park publications were sent out free of charge. 73 short letters were sent out in reply to simple inquiries; 16 more letters requiring longer, more technical replies were answered after spending the necessary time in searching out the information desired. In addition, 91 letters applying for positions were answered, mostly by referring the applicants to the Hotel Company, the Camps Company, or the Transportation Company, as seemed most suitable.

REC'D MAR 3 1921 PARK, WYO.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 1, 1921.

REPORT ON SEASONAL CHANGES.

To: Chester A. Lindsley, Acting Superintendent.

From: M.P. Skinner, Park Naturalist.

Botanical: Grass began to grow in a few sunny, warm spots on the 11th. Fresh clover leaves in the lawns at Mammoth on the 27th.

Birds: Pallid horned larks (the earliest migratory bird) returned on the 14th; redpolls reappeared on the 11th. Along the Gardiner River, the mallard decreased to 25, American golden-eye to 1, and Barrow golden-eye to 12; the Wilson snipe, kingfisher, 3 song sparrows, 75 dippers, and 6 Townsend solitaires remained as in January. In the neighborhood of Mammoth: magpies decreased to 6; nutcrackers increased to 8; the black-headed jays, green-winged teal, mallard, and leucostictes remained as in January; in addition a Rocky Mountain hairy woodpecker and several mountain chickadees were seen at different times. Nutcrackers began nesting on the 25th. A song sparrow heard singing on the 28th.

Animals: Mule deer began casting their horns on the 3rd and finished on the 25th. Mule deer began moving towards the summer ranges on the 19th, movement still going on at the end of the month.

White tail deer finished casting horns on the 10th.

Shortly after the 1st, the elk within four miles of Mammoth increased to nine hundred head and then dropped to four hundred head at the end of the month. The elk wintering on Bunsen Peak joined the Terrace Mountain herd on the 16th. Elk began moving towards the summer ranges on the 19th, movement still going on at the end of the month. Bulls began casting their horns at the end of the month.

Mountain sheep remained on the bench east of the Gardiner Canyon until the 27th, but moved up high on Mt. Everts on the 28th. They began shedding wool on the 25th.

Since the 1st, the antelope have been steadily moving higher on their ranges as the retreating snow line uncovered more and more forage, until they were at the 7000 foot level on Mt. Everts on the 28th. The large winter bands began breaking in smaller groups on the 3rd. At the end of the month 80% of the bucks' horns were full grown and the remainder lacked but an inch or two.

Bear tracks of animals leaving hibernation reported by Ranger Henry Anderson on the 27th.

Beaver cutting cottonwood and alder along the Gardiner River.

The first ground squirrel out of hibernation seen on the 24th, and the first woodchuck on the 27th.

Insects: The first common flies at Mammoth seen on the 1st; flies and insects on the Mammoth formation on the 5th; a black and brown caterpillar on the 14th; and flying insects of many kinds noted all along between Mammoth and Gardiner on the 22d.

Based on the above data, the season is opening up twelve days earlier than the average year.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

E OF SUPERVISOR

March 3rd, 1921.

Chief Ranger's Monthly Report:

February 1921.

James McBride,
Chief Ranger,
Yellowstone National Park.

File A. Sec. F.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

WEATHER:

Continual thaws, practically thru the entire month left many of the south slopes bare and reduced the snow depth from six to fourteen inches. The warm weather was responsible for many of the big game animals drifting to the high ridges in the interior of the park.

Though large drifts are reported, teams have had little trouble passing back and forth between Mammoth and the Buffalo Farm. Three deep snow drifts between Mammoth and the top of the Golden Gate is the only reason why a team can not be driven to Norris. The winter keeper at the Old Faithful Inn, according to reports, is driving a car in that district.

The depth of snow as has been reported follows:

Bechler River,	70 inches.
Snake River,	58 inches.
Miller Creek Cabin,	24 "
Lamar River,	20 "
Upper Yellowstone,	30 "
Thumb,	50 "
Canyon,	30 "
Lake,	30 "
Gardiner,	T. "
Hellroaring,	6 "
Buffalo Ranch,	10 "
Slough Creek,	18 "
Tower Falls,	14 "
Soda Butte,	12 "
Riverside,	24 "
Gallatin,	18 "
Upper Basin,	4 "
Norris,	12 "
Mammoth,	5 inches.

GENERAL CONDITIONS :

PATROLING:

Though extensive patrolling was unnecessary during the month, many of the men took advantage of the ideal weather conditions to cover their entire district. Due to the fact that the snow sticks to the skis during the middle of the day, all of this travel was carried on early in the morning and late in the evening.

The most extensive patrolling during the month was performed by Ass't. Chief Ranger Joe Douglas, Ranger E.T. Scoyen and Ranger George Winn, who made an attempt to count the Wild Buffalo in the eastern district of the park.

GAME:

The common large herds of elk and deer were not to be found during the last of the month. These herds have split into small bands and are working very high in the mountains. Though a few bands are causing some trouble along the north line, 90% are well in the interior of the park.

Trappers:

According to the reports from all cabins in the trapping district, the trappers have ceased operations for the present. Martih fur has begun to "slip" and with the otter, they are traveling across country.

These trappers are waiting for bear and beaver. Under present weather conditions, trapping of these animals will be of very little consequence. The uncertainty of the market is a big asset from the protective standpoint.

Hunting:

Another animal factor

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

GAME:Hunting:

Another unusual feature of the present winter, is the fact, as far as we are able to ascertain, that no big game animal has been killed out of season along the edges of the park. In past years, local residents made a practice of killing game whenever it was needed. ✓

Reports from the Forest Rangers of the Hellroaring and Resse Creek districts are to the effect that no depredations have been found. The Hellroaring Rangers said that no elk had crossed the line into their district, while in the district below Gardiner, about five hundred head are working in and out of the park. ✓

Feeding:

In spite of the warm weather during the month, it was necessary to feed both the elk and buffalo at the respective ranches. ✓

Buffalo Ranch:

To hold the buffalo at the ranch, Lacombe fed enough hay to keep them from becoming restless. He began feeding 396 head of bulls and cows January 9th, cleaning up about 3500 pounds per day. The first part of this month the stray bulls began to come in. The feed was then increased to 4500 pounds each day. With the mild weather and bare ridges, the buffalo have been able to rustle all of the feed they can consume with the amount being fed them. ✓

The vaccination of the calf herd was completed November 5th. The calves were thrown in the corrals and weaned at that time. They ate about 500 pounds each day until January 1st, when the feed was increased to about 750 pounds. They are in the very best of condition. ✓

Under existing weather conditions, feeding the buffalo will be stopped almost entirely, which will mean a saving of 40% of the crop.

GENERAL CONDITIONS :

GAME:Feeding:

Slough Creek:

The marked success of the feeding of the elk at Slough Creek has been shown to a larger extent this month. While there are but 2000 head being fed there, this number would have been much larger had it not been for the exceedingly mild weather.

Feeding operations at Slough Creek began November 29th, with three ton being fed each day. As the herd increased the amount of fed increased until five ton was fed to the elk and one ton to 42 head of horses being wintered at the ranch.

Unless the horses are removed from the Slough Creek ranch, the hay supply will be exhausted before the end of March. At the end of the month, only fifty five ton was left. Chief Ranger McBride and Hutchins both expressed the opinion that the elk feeding at Slough Creek at the end of the month, will not leave there until practically all of the snow has left the country.

Distribution:

Per order of Superintendent Albright, one bull elk was trapped and shipped to the City park of Sheridan, Wyo., February 8th, by express, charges collect.

Ranger Peter Lawson was engaged in this work for more than ten days. As the bull a five point animal, had not shed his horns, Chief Ranger McBride, Rangers Lawson and Bishop, sawed them off.

Lawson has been ordered to trap two calf elk for Dallas, Texas,. Weather conditions will make the success a doubt.

GENERAL CONDITIONS :

GAME:Predatory Animals:

Park Ranger Henry Anderson was ordered to trap wolves and coyotes during the month. His catch for the month of February was 86 coyotes, one fox. ✓

Rumors of adverse nature to this administration led to articles being published to the effect that predatory animals were over running the park. These reports are false. Though predatory animals are quite common along the northern district line, it is because of the lack of food for them. In past years. dead elk were numerous in the mountains, which caused them to remain high. ✓

One fox, reported killed by Anderson, died from strychnine placed in the carcass of an elk at a coyote setting. ✓

Other Rangers working in the northern district have killed a great many coyotes. The larger percent being females. ✓

An effort will be made to clean out many of the wolf dens during the month of March. These animals were making preparations to den up during the last few days of February. They are working in the Slough Creek and Specimen Ridge district. Two black wolves have been reported. ✓

Buffal Count:
(Wild herd.)

Ass't. Chief Ranger Joe Douglas, with Park Ranger E. T. Scoyen were ordered to count as many of the wild buffalo herd as possible in the Pelican district. After a search of eight days, covering the entire district, 27 animals were found. ✓

GENERAL CONDITIONS :

GAME:Buffalo Count:

(Wild herd cont.)

By appointment, Douglas met Ranger George Winn at the Cold Creek Cabin. From there the two patrolled down the Lamar River. Foggy weather kept them from seeing all of the buffalo in the district, but 28 head were found on (ah) Cache Creek near Soda Butte. Another attempt will be made to count the remainder of them.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

February and March are the two most favorable months, from our standpoint, for the men to take their annual leaves. In most cases the leave is not for more than two weeks.

Leaves were granted to the following during the month of February:

C.O. Davis,	Feb. 1, to 28,
B.C. Lacombe,	Feb. 14, to 19,
W.M. Bishop,	Feb. 1, to 2,
F.J. Townsend,	Feb. 1, to 5,
Hans Larsen,	Feb. 14, to 18,
Harry Trischman,	Feb. 14, to 18,
James Russell,	Feb. 14, to 3/5.
W.N. Purdue,	Feb. 18, to 28,
F.J. Townsend, *	Feb. 5, to 28,
C.B. Dewing, *	Feb. 1, to 24.

* Approved sick leave.

o/o

TRAVEL:

Eleven visitors were registered at headquarters during the month, while four passengers were taken to Cooke City via the mail stage, making a total of fifteen tourists in the park during the month.

Under present weather conditions, concessioners will find little trouble opening their establishments.

GAME CONDITIONS :

ANTELOPE:

✓ Ranger Al McLaughlin spent the entire month working with the antelope herds and reports them very easy to handle. So far this season, none have been seen out of the park and it will be very unlikely if any get away from us this season. They were feeding high and well back in the interior of the park at the end of the month.

✓ During the course of his travel during the winter, McLaughlin says he has found the carcasses of three antelope. Two of which he is sure, were killed by coyotes. They seem unafraid of the predatory animals.

✓ A large calf crop is expected next summer as they were not molested during the rutting season and very favorable weather prevailed.

BUFFALO:

(Tame herd.)

✓ With the exception of two cows, the entire tame buffalo herd is in excellent condition, the calves especially. At the first of the month, more than 30 bulls had not returned to the herd, but at the end of the month, over half of them drifted in. to the ranch. Those that have not returned are wintering in the Hellroaring and Specimen Ridge districts.

✓ A two month old buffalo calf was killed by and old bull February 19th. The hide will be turned in to the Chief Ranger.

(See feeding.)

BUFFALO:

(Wild herd.)

See Buffalo Count. Page 5 and 6.

GAME CONDITIONS :

DEER:

Bands of deer are to be seen over the entire northern district but though they are well scattered, they fed close together for protective reasons. Predatory animals have caused them no little amount of trouble during the winter.

They are working very high on the ridges. Bucks among the herds can be seen with one horn and quite often with both horns shed. With the shedding of the horns, both the bucks and does have begun to slip their hair.

ELK:

The large herds wintering in the Hellroaring, Slough Creek and Lamar River districts have split into small bands and are feeding in districts very uncommon for elk. Elk in the eastern district of the park is the surprise of the season. Another feature of the elk herds this winter has been the very small number of bulls seen. They are reported high in the mountains and deep snow.

At the end of the month the elk were feeding in the Slough Creek, Hellroaring, Big Specimen, Norris, Cache Creek, Miller Creek, Lake, Mammoth Black Tail and Electric Peak districts.

Through the entire winter Rangers were constantly on the look-out for the carcasses of dead elk. A cow, the first and only one to be reported, was found dead near the Power Plant, death due to natural causes. The wolves and coyotes must kill a small per cent, the depredations of the predatory animal has been very slight.

Seven out of eleven bulls at Oxe Bow Creek had shed at least one of their horns.
~~They~~ Ticks are very common on the backs of the elk though being early for them.

P E R S O N N E L :

James McBride:

During entire month at Mammoth forming plans for 1921 tourist season.

Harry Trischman:

Herdin g elk at Hellroaring. On leave.
Returned to Hellroaring to relieve Dupuis.

J.O. Douglas:

Patrols from Mammoth to Lake, to
Upper Yellowstone, Pelican, Frost Lake, Cold Creek,
Miller Creek, to Soda Butte, on Buffalo count.

W.M. Bishop:

At Chief Ranger's Office. On leave.
Trip to Buffalo Ranch, Soda Butte, Slough
Creek, Tower Falls.

Thad C. Pound:

Herdin g elk back on Everts .

Al McLaughlin:

Herdin g antelope along line.

C.B. Dowing:

On sick leave until the 24th.
Ordered to Slough Creek to feed elk.

Hans Larsen:

Ice pond. Trapping. Leave. Hellroaring
herdin g elk.

P E R S O N N E L :

Peter Lawson:

Trapping elk for Sheridan, Wyo.,
to Hellroaring to relieve Trischman, to
Mammoth to trap elk for Dallas.

C. Anderson:

Feeding elk at Slough Creek.

George Winn:

Patrol up Slough Creek. To Cache
Creek, to Upper Lamar counting Buffalo.
Return followed by patrols along north and
east line.

H. Anderson:

Packed Rations to Miller Creek.
Trapping predatory animals .

James Dupuis:

Herding elk at Hellroaring. To
Mammoth after forage.

R.R. Wisdom:

Trapping patrols near station/

E.T. Scoyen:

Patrols to Lake, through Upper Yell-
owstone, through Pelican counting buffalo, to
Cold creek to Upper Yellowstone.

P E R S O N N E L :

C.O. Davis:

On leave during entire month.

J.J. Russell:

Patrols to Thumb, to Mammoth.
On Leave from 14th.

A.T. Bicknell:

Patrols to Park Point, to Pelican
and Hot Springs formation.

W.M. Purdue:

Patrols along south line. To Cas-
cade cabin. On leave from 18th.

Earl Bowman:

Patrols to Aster Creek, to Thumb
and to Cascade cabin.

F.J. Townsend:

On sick leave during entire month.

Ray Little:

To Cascade cabin, to Buffalo Lake,
along Boundry Creek, to Ashton.

Lee Cottrell:

Same as Little. Many short trips.

PERSONNEL :

Ford Purdy:

Patrols to South Riverside, Grayling cabin, West Yellowstone and to Madison Junction to shovel snow from buildings.

Luther Custer:

Same as Purdy.

S.T. Woodring:

Patrols to Sportsman Lake, to Grayling cabin, to Eldridge after mail.

R.T. Frazier:

Patrols to Sportsman Lake, to Grayling cabin, over Bacon Rhine to look for lost horses.

OTHER WORK COMPLETED:

Dead Horse:

Ranger Hans Larsen found the carcass of a pack-horse, known as "Jonny" on the 10th, near the east fork of the Gardiner River. The horse apparently died of old age. Its carcass is being used as coyote bait.

Notice of Sale:

Notice of the impounded horse at the Lake Station was posted February 21st, which, unless claimed, will be sold to the highest bidder Monday April 4th.

Hides and heads shipped:

Per instructions of Mr. Albright, two buffalo hides and one head was shipped

OTHER WORK COMPLETED :

Hides and Head Shipped:

to Mr. John Hurgatroyd, of Brooklyn, N.Y.,
for Mr. Edmund Seymour, Pres. of the Amer-
ican Bison Society.

Accidents:

Warren S. Hutchins, keeper at the
Horse Ranch on Slough Creek, suffered inter-
nal injuries while pitching hay about the
12th of the month. Circumstances have made
it impossible to have him examined by a phy-
sician. The indications are, he has developed
a hyrnia.

Respectfully submitted,

James McBride

James McBride,
Chief Ranger.